

THE CABINET OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS - POST MEETING STATEMENT

CABINET DECISIONS

17th, 19th, 22nd, and 25th July, 2024

Cabinet Meeting – 17th July, 2024

His Excellency the Governor Daniel Pruce chaired the meeting held on 17th July, 2024 at the Premier's Conference Room.

All Members were present, with the exception of the Attorney General, who was overseas on official business. Solicitor General Mrs. Jo-Ann Williams-Roberts attended as the acting Attorney General.

Cabinet:

1. Noted the content of the Governor's Office Commission of Inquiry Report.
2. Decided that permission be granted to Garner Bay Holdings Ltd. to reclaim seabed in Jost Van Dyke, in accordance with the Marine Estate Administration Policy.
3. Considered and approved the Financial Governance Policy for Statutory Boards/Bodies, as amended, to enhance financial governance and accountability across public sector entities; and decided that:
 - a. the policy forms part of the recently approved Statutory Board Policy and that the proposed amalgamated policy be tabled at the next convenient sitting of the House of Assembly;
 - b. in the first instances, legislative language consistent with the requirements of the proposed amalgamated policy, be introduced into the primary legislation of the following Statutory Boards:
 - i. National Parks Trust;
 - ii. BVI Tourist Board;
 - iii. BVI Ports Authority;
 - iv. BVI Health Services Authority;
 - v. H. Lavity Stoutt Community College; and all other Statutory Boards/Bodies; and

- c. that the Ministry of Finance instruct the relevant Ministries to prepare and submit drafting instructions to the Attorney General's Chambers to make the proposed amendments to the primary legislation of the above-mentioned organisations.
4. Noted that the Minister for Communications and Works approved a Commemorative Motor Vehicle Registration plate to be used on motor vehicles for personal use to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of Festival pursuant to regulation 6A(5) of the Road Traffic (Motor Vehicle Registration and Operation and Driver and Vehicle Licensing) Regulations; decided
 - a. that a maximum of five hundred (500) pairs of plates be issued pursuant to regulation 6A(6) of the Road Traffic (Motor Vehicle Registration and Operation and Driver and Vehicle Licensing) Regulations; and
 - b. that the Department of Motor Vehicles is to sell the 70th Anniversary of Festival Commemorative Motor Vehicle Registration Plates at a fee of two hundred dollars (\$200.00) per pair of plates, as proposed and subject to the approval of the imposition of the fee by Order of the Cabinet pursuant to section 3 of the Statutory Rates, Fees and Charges Act, 2005, part 39-Road Traffic Fees.
5. Reviewed and accepted the 2021 and 2022 Taxi and Livery Commission Annual Reports; and agreed that the reports be tabled at the next convenient sitting of the House of Assembly.

Cabinet Meeting – 19th July, 2024

His Excellency the Governor Daniel Pruce chaired the meeting held on 19th July, 2024 at the Premier's Conference Room.

All Members were present, with the exception of the Attorney General, who was overseas on official business. Solicitor General Mrs. Jo-Ann Williams-Roberts attended as the acting Attorney General.

Cabinet:

1. Noted:

- a. the revised Action Plan, that has been developed for the recommendations from Mr. Denniston Fraser pertaining to the practice of the House of Assembly Members contracting with the Government, including statutory boards under Recommendation B5 of the Framework for Implementation of the Recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry Report and Other Reforms;
- b. that of the recommendations for changes to the Integrity Commission, Cabinet had already decided that the Integrity in Public Life Act, 2021 be amended; and approved
- c. that Statutory Boards should continue to be governed by the respective legislation, and not listed as Government entities in any new Constitution.

2. Reviewed and approved the Public Finance Management (Amendment) Regulations, 2024, which seek to eliminate the potential for abuse of discretionary powers and to enhance the regulatory framework governing public financial management; and decided that the Regulations be published in the Virgin Islands Official Gazette before being laid in the House of Assembly by an affirmative resolution in accordance with section 44 of the Public Finance Management Act, 2004.

Cabinet Meeting – 22nd July, 2024

His Excellency, the Acting Governor Mr. David D. Archer Jr., chaired the special meeting held on 19th July, 2024, in the absence of Governor Daniel Pruce, who was overseas on private business. The special meeting was held at the Premier's Conference Room.

All Members were present with the exception of the Attorney General who was overseas on official business. Chief Parliamentary Counsel Ms. Christine Bowen attended as the acting Attorney General.

Cabinet approved the Integrity in Public Life (Amendment) Bill, 2024 and agreed that it be tabled in the House of Assembly at its next convenient sitting; and agreed that the necessary provisions be included in proposed amendments to statutory boards legislation.

Cabinet Meeting – 25th July, 2024

His Excellency, the Acting Governor Mr. David D. Archer Jr., chaired the meeting held on 25^h July, 2024, in the absence of Governor Daniel Pruce, who was overseas on private business. The special meeting was held at the Premier's Conference Room.

All Members were present, with the exception of the Attorney General, who was overseas on official business. Chief Parliamentary Counsel Ms. Christine Bowen attended as the acting Attorney General.

Cabinet

1. Decided:
 - a. to amend the Service Commissions Regulations to establish an independent, dedicated secretariat to provide support to the four (4) service commissions;
 - b. to amend the Service Commission Regulations, 2014, Part II of Section 4, to provide that Service Commissions are supported by an independent Service Commissions Secretariat, comprised of an Executive Commission Secretary and Commission Secretaries; and
 - c. that the Deputy Governor's Office instruct the Attorney General's Chambers to make the necessary amendments to the Service Commissions Regulations to be re-submitted for Cabinet's consideration before being published in the Gazette.
2. Approved the Service Commissions (Amendment) Bill, 2024, which seeks to provide a legislative framework to facilitate the implementation of the Vetting Policy and Approach for law enforcement officers from His Majesty's Customs; Department of Immigration and His Majesty's Prison Service; and agreed that the Bill be introduced for its first reading in the House of Assembly at the next convenient sitting.
3. Reviewed and accepted, in accordance with Part IV Section 10 of the Disaster Management Act, 2003, the 2023 Department of Disaster Management Annual Report; and agreed that it be laid on the table at the next convenient meeting of the House of Assembly in accordance with the Act.
4. Reviewed and accepted the Department of Disaster Management's "Situation Report (7th May, 2024 Flood Event)"; and also noted the "Report on the Assessment of Government Accommodations After the Passage of an Upper-Level Trough with Heavy Rainfall" and the "Report from Sister Islands Programme Unit on Torrential Rainfall".

5. Noted the content of the Governor's Office Commission of Inquiry Report.
6. Approved two (2) Non-Belongers Land Holding Licence applications, and an application for permission to sell and transfer leasehold interests.
7. Considered and approved the Bill entitled, Tonnage Duty (Amendment) Bill, 2024, which seeks to amend sections (2) and (3), and the schedule, and to repeal Section 4; and decided that the Bill be introduced for its first reading at the next convenient sitting of the House of Assembly.
8. Noted that the Resolution for the Schedule of Additional Provision No. 2 of 2017 was vetted by the Attorney General's Chambers; and decided that it be laid in the House of Assembly at its next convenient sitting.
9. Reviewed and accepted the Taxi and Livery Commission's 2023 Annual Report; and agreed that in accordance with section 15F of the Road Traffic (Taxi-Cab Commission) (Amendment) Regulations, 2009, the report be tabled at the next convenient sitting of the House of Assembly.
10. Approved the BVI Scholarship Committee's recommendations to award Government Scholarships to twenty-four (24) applicants and a conditional approval to two students to pursue studies during the 2024/2025 academic year.

Published by the Cabinet Office on 26th September, 2024.

Guidelines:

1. Cabinet decisions will be published by the Cabinet Office following confirmation of the Minutes.
2. Only a summary of the decisions will be published.
3. Cabinet discussions will not be disclosed.
4. Cabinet decisions of a sensitive nature, matters of national security, those where publication breaches regional or international conventions and those relating to personal privacy will not be disclosed.
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